

Simplification on licence for pilots

2109. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of trained pilots in Indian aviation industry;

(b) if so, how many pilots will be required in the coming 2-3 years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are planning to simplify the licence of pilots under new training system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the present trend of growth in the civil aviation sector it is estimated that a total of two to three thousand pilots would be required in the next two to three years.

(c) and (d) Government through implementation of recommended procedures of applying, preparation and taking the examinations for obtaining the licence of pilots, is simplifying the procedure without any dilution of eligibility requirements essentials to ensure safety in aviation operations.

Joint venture for infrastructure

2110. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry and the Ministry of Railways are together planning to invest Rs. 4 lakh crores in building the infrastructure of the country over the next five years;

(b) if so, the details of this ambitious plan;

(c) what is the share of his Ministry in the total expenditure; and

(d) how the Ministry is planning to pool the resources for this mega plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Investment in infrastructure is an ongoing process. There is, however, no joint plan of Ministry of Civil Aviation with the Ministry of Railways in building the infrastructure over the next five years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Delay in AI-188 flight

2111. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a broken pipe was found in the toilet of aircraft on AI-188 flight which took off from Toronto airport on the 18th September, 2006 and had to return to Toronto after an hour flight as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether the incident has been probed; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A cylindrical packet (5" long and 1" Diameter) with some engineering tools was found in the toilet of the said aircraft after departure of flight AI-188 from Toronto on 18.09.2006. After the incident, an investigation was initiated by Peel Regional Police (Toronto). Air India had also conducted an 'on the spot' enquiry into the incident. The primary enquiry by the Security Manager, Air India, New York indicated lapse on the part of 2 employees of M/s. Garda's (Security Agency) who had carried out security checks on that flight in Toronto. Till the investigations are completed, M/s. Garda (Security Agency) has been asked to ensure non-deployment of the above employees on Air India flights. Air India had also given them notice for invoking the penal provisions in the contract for handling of Air India flights. In response, the said agency has given notice for termination of the contract.

Promotion of regional airlines

2112. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to promote regional airlines, Government are